

NEBRASKA SUPREME COURT



Office of Public Information

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Media Advisory

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Pilot Program for Juveniles on Probation Piloted in Omaha Through Partnership Between Office of Probation Administration and Nebraska's Health and Human Services System

The Office of Probation Administration (OPA) and the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) announce a Pilot Program to provide resources for juveniles on probation in the justice system in Douglas County. Probation welcomes this collaboration with the Department of Health and Human Services in the quest to continue to find new and inventive ways to provide services and options for juveniles and families in Nebraska's juvenile justice system. Placing juveniles on probation within their home communities without the necessity of placing in costly state care improves outcomes for the juvenile which ultimately makes for a safer community.

DHHS has dedicated resource dollars to the Administrative Office of Probation to fund treatment and placement services for juveniles placed on probation in Douglas County to reduce the number of state wards in Douglas County.

Although this pilot is dedicated only to Douglas County in its first phase, it is intended, if successful, for the project to be a first step in the creation of a juvenile system of care across the state. The goal is to provide access to funding for services to all districts within a few years.

The overarching goal of this pilot is to:

- Reduce the number of direct commitments to the Office of Juvenile Services for the sole purpose of payment for treatment/placement services;
- Alleviate dual supervision of cases;
- Identify juveniles eligible for probation whose families are unable to pay for services and then match the appropriate treatment service.

A juvenile resource specialist within the juvenile probation office will work with probation officers and families to secure funding for services by:

- Determining eligibility for existing funding sources;
- Utilizing new pilot project funding;
- Or using a combination of both.

(Continued...)

Services, for purposes of this pilot, include:

- Community based substance abuse/mental health evaluation/treatment
- Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST)
- Functional Family Therapy (FFT)
- Placement options from Foster Care to Enhanced Treatment Group Home

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